

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 10, 12-15, 18, 20-23, 27 and 30 under 35 USC 102. The rejections are fully traversed below.

Claims 10, 20, 25-27 and 30 have been amended. Claims 10 and 20 were amended to include allowable subject matter as discussed below in the section titled "*Allowable Subject Matter*". Claims 25-27 and 30 were amended to correct their dependency. Claims 11, 15, 18, 23, 24, 29 and 31 have been cancelled. Claims 35 - 36 have been added. Claims 35 - 36 contain allowable subject matter as discussed below in the section titled "*Allowable Subject Matter*". No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 10, 12-15, 20-22, 25-36 are pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

DRAWINGS

Formal Drawings will be supplied when the case is allowed.

ISSUES UNDER 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 10, 12-15, 18, 20-23, 27 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,198,473 (*Armstrong*).

The rejections to claims 10, 15 and 20 (and their dependents) are moot in that claims 10 and 20 have been amended to include allowable subject matter, and claim 15 has been cancelled in order to expedite prosecution.

Although cancelled, it is still believed that claim 15 is patentable over *Armstrong*. In contrast to *Armstrong*, claim 15 (and its dependents) specifically requires, "...a mouse housing configured to be grasped and manipulated by a hand of a user...and serving as a movable button so as to perform an onscreen action..." While *Armstrong* may disclose a mouse 200 having a housing 104, *Armstrong* fails to teach or suggest a housing 104 that is movable so as to perform an onscreen option (e.g., button click). In *Armstrong*, it appears that the housing 104 provides a surface to the user so that the user may move the mouse 200 along a surface. The housing 104,

however, does not provide a movable housing (e.g., clicking action) for performing on screen options as required by claim 15, i.e., the housing 104 is a fixed component. It appears that the onscreen options are performed by depressible buttons 103. The buttons 103, however, are not a mouse housing and further the buttons 103 are not configured to be grasped and manipulated by a hand of a user. A user would simply not hold onto the buttons 103 to move the mouse around a surface. This function is performed by the housing 104 not the buttons 103.

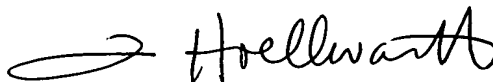
Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations from allowed dependent claim 11. Claim 20 has been amended to include the limitations from allowed dependent claim 24 and intervening claim 23. Claims 35 -36 have been added. Claim 35 includes the limitations from claim 20 and allowed dependent claim 29. Claim 36 includes the limitations from claim 20 and allowed dependent claim 31. Claims 10, 20 and 35 - 36 (and their dependents) are therefore allowable as the Examiner indicated allowable subject matter in the previous Office Action. Claims 32- 34 have already been allowed.

SUMMARY

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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APPENDIX

10. (Once Amended) A mouse capable of executing a button function, the button function being incorporated into a housing component of the mouse, the housing component being configured to substantially enclose electronics associated with the mouse, **wherein the housing component is pushed in its entirety to execute the button function.**
20. (Once Amended) An input device, comprising:
a base member; and
a top member cooperating with the base member to [(]form a housing of the input device[)] **that** substantially encloses internal components of the input device, the top member moving relative to the base member to provide a clicking action, **the top member being movably coupled to the base member, the top member being capable of moving between a first position, placing the top member away from the base member and a second position, placing the top member towards the base member.**
25. (Once Amended) The input device as recited in claim **20** [24] wherein the clicking action is implemented by moving the top member to the second position.
26. (Once Amended) The input device as recited in claim **20** [24] further including a biasing spring pad for biasing the top member in the first position.
27. (Once Amended) The input device as recited in claim **20** [23] wherein the top member is pivotally coupled to the base member.
30. (Once Amended) The input device as recited in claim [29] **35** wherein the electronic switch is coupled to the base member, and wherein the top member includes an elongated member for engaging the electronic switch.